

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 PA-04

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CAB - R. SHERER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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TAGS: EAIR, XT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - NORTH ATLANTIC FARES

REF : STATE 209563

MONTREAL FOR RAYMOND J. WALDMANN, U.S. CHAIRMAN TO

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ICAO ASSEMBLY

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED BY THE DEPT
SEPTEMBER 24:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES THE POSITIVE ACTION OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD IN UNDERTAKING TO EXPEDITE CONSIDERATION OF THE RECENT IATA AGREEMENT ON NORTH ATLANTIC SCHEDULED FARES BEFORE EXPIRATION OF THE OLD AGREEMENT NOVEMBER 1. THE BOARD'S ACTION WAS IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM CAB CHAIRMAN TIMM SENT SEPTEMBER 24 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE (ECAC). AN ECAC RESOLUTION HAD CALLED ON GOVERNMENTS TO APPROVE THESE AGREEMENTS ON SCHEDULED AND NONSCHEDULED (CHARTER) PRICES WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY. IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING OUR INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIERS, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IMPERATIVE THAT GOVERNMENTS MOVE PROMPTLY TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO LENGTHY PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT THIS WINTER OF COST-RELATED NORTH ATLANTIC AIR FARES.

THE CAB'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WILL MOVE PROMPTLY TOWARDS A FINAL DECISION ON THE FARE PACKAGE SUBMITTED SEPTEMBER 5 FOR THE BOARD'S APPROVAL BY THE CARRIERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTION WILL BE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE.

WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED IATA PACKAGE IS DEPENDENT ON AN AGREEMENT BEING REACHED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC SCHEDULED AND CHARTER CARRIERS ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM CHARTER PRICE (CHARTER FLOOR). DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY TO THIS END FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, BUT FULL AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. FAILURE TO AGREE ON THE CHARTER FLOOR WOULD THREATEN THE AGREEMENT ALREADY REACHED ON SCHEDULED SERVICES. WE WOULD URGE THE CARRIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEDULED/CHARTER NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME THEIR DISCUSSIONS AND TRY TO MOVE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TOWARDS A FINAL AGREEMENT. IF THE CHARTER TALKS WERE TO BREAK DOWN OR IF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE UNABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME BEFORE EXPIRATION OF THE PRESENT IATA FARES, THE DEPARTMENT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARED TO INITIATE DIRECT CONSULTATIONS OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AS A MEANS OF REMOVING REMAINING OBSTACLES TO THE EARLY INSTITUTION FOR THE 1975 SEASON OF A RATIONAL AIR FARE SYSTEM ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC.
END TEXT.

3. POSTS AND US DEL ICAO ASSEMBLY SHOULD BRING
ABOVE ATTENTION OF KEY AVIATION PEOPLE. WE UNDERSTAND

THAT CHARTER FLOOR TALKS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED IN DISAGREE-
MENT AND ARE NOW TRYING TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND A BASIS
FOR GETTING THE CARRIERS BACK TO THE TABLE AND AVOID THE
NEED TO BRING GOVERNMENTS INTO THE PICTURE, UNLESS THERE
IS NO OTHER WAY OUT. INGERSOLL

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